

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 46-71 are pending and under consideration. Claims 46 - 51, 54, 55, 58, 61, 62, 65, 66, 68, 69 and 71 have been amended. No new matter is presented in this Amendment.

The 35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection:

Claim 71 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 71 has been amended to depend from claim 69 to overcome this rejection.

The 35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection:

Claims 46-71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,881,032 to Ito et al.

Regarding claim 46, the Examiner asserts that FIG. 1D of Ito et al. disclose that on the first and second recording layers a physical address of smallest recording units increases or decreases together with an address of smallest recording units recorded during recording on the disc."

Claim 46 has been amended to improve grammatical form and to recite "[a]n optical disc, comprising first and second recording layers on which data are recordable and/or reproducible, the first and second recording layers having opposite track spiral directions and physical addresses recorded thereon; and recorded addresses of smallest recording units recorded on the optical disc, wherein: the recorded addresses are recorded during recording of the smallest recording units on the optical disc, and on at least one the first and second recording layers, the recorded addresses and the physical addresses increase or decrease oppositely."

Although FIG. 1D of Ito et al. shows a reproduction direction which follows a direction of increasing physical addresses, which Ito et al. refers to as sector addresses, Ito et al. make no mention of recorded addresses of smallest recording units recorded during recording on the disc. That is, Ito et al. make no mention of a recorded addresses which differ from the physical or sector addresses. Thus, Ito et al. do not disclose any relationship between recorded addresses and the physical addresses. Recording user data while progressing through the sector addresses in a certain direction is not the same as recording recorded addresses "during recording of the smallest recording units on the optical disc," as recited in claim 46. Sector

addresses inherent to the disc are established during manufacture of the disc, whereas the recited recorded addresses are "recorded during recording of the smallest recording units," as recited in claim 46. The recited recorded addresses of the smallest recording units are different from the sector or physical addresses. While FIGS. 3 and 4 of Ito et al. show relationships between sector addresses and inner and outer radii of the disc, FIGS. 3 and 4 of Ito et al. do not show any relationship between the sector addresses and recorded addresses "recorded during recording of the smallest recording units."

Thus, Ito et al. do not anticipate claim 46.

Claims 47-71 are deemed to be patentable at least for similar reasons as set forth above regarding claim 46.

Conclusion:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

It is respectfully requested that this amendment be entered as the amendment at least places the claims in better form for appeal.

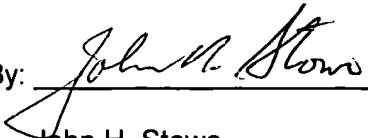
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

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